

REMARKS

Claims 4-5, 9-10, 16-17, 19-21, 26-30, 32-39, and 43-44 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 4-5, 9-10, 16-17, 19-21, 26-30, 32-39, and 43-44 are allowed and the specification should be revised to comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Claims 16-17, the specification, and the abstract have been amended in a manner believed fully responsive to all points raised by the Examiner, thereby to pass the claims to allowance. No new matter has been added.

It is noted that the claim amendments herein are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims, or for any statutory requirements of patentability.

Further, it is noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicants' intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein or later during prosecution.

FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

Regarding the Examiner's objection to the drawings and specifically to Figures 62(a) - 62(d) as not being labeled "Prior Art", Applicants submit that these Figures are not prior art against the claims of the present application. Indeed, these Figures represent "Related Art" which was not published or known outside the confines of NEC Corporation at the time of filing of the underlying priority document. Thus, to label Figures 62(a) - 62(d) as "Prior Art" would be erroneous.

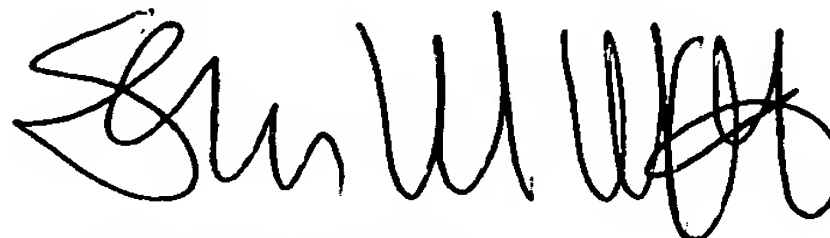
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In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 4-5, 9-10, 16-17, 19-21, 26-30, 32-39, and 43-44, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees or to credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully submitted,



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11/12/04
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